through pr-omotion measures such as participation in fairs, exhibitions and market surveys.

Re-Imbursement of Surgery Expenses to Defence Pensioners

6881. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to re-imburse or to provide financial assistance to defence pensioners to meet the high cost surgery expenses by them and their spouses; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). There is no scheme in Ministry of Defence for financial assistance to meet the high cost of surgery expenses of Defence pensioners of their spouses. However, Army Group Insurance Fund (AGIF), a Society registered under the Society Registration Act, has introduced a contributory, self-sustaining Medical Benefit Scheme to provide financial assistance upto an amount of Rs. 1 lakh for Members and their sponses to meet the cost of surgery/ treatment of certain cases of heart ailment, cancer and renal transplant. Only those personnel who have retired with service pension and have not completed a period of 15 years after retirement or 70 years of age, whichever is earlier, are eligible to opt for this scheme. The treatment has to be taken in the approved hospitals. A scheme on similar lines is in operation on the Air Force side also.

Non-Observance of Customs Rules

6882. DR. R. MALLU:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of deliberate non-observance of customs rules and regulations during each of the last three years on each port and airport in the country alongwith the value of goods confiscated;

(b) the amount involved therein, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons apprehended in this regard, year-wise; and

(d) the amount of penalty recovered from these persons, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Deemed Exporter Companies

6883. SHRI CHHOTEY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many deemed exporter companies are facing difficulties due to lack of funds;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has instructed the Nationalised Banks to be lenient with such deemed exporter-companies while providing funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Such issues are normally referred by the exporters to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and RBI have indicated that no complaints to this effect have been received by them.

(b) and (c). RBI has issued instructions to bank that export credit facilities may be extended to parties against orders for supplies to IBRD/IDA/UNCEF Aided projects/ programmes in India where there is an accrual of free Foreign exchange to the country. Packing credit at the pre-supply stage amy be granted upto a maxinum of 180 days, and post supply credit up to a maximum of 30 days. The present rate of interest applicable for such advances is 15% per annum. However, credit at a lower rate of interest is also authorised by RBI on a case to case basis against supplies to projects in India financed by bilateral/multilateral agencies, after ensuring that there is accrual of free foreign exchange to the country.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Arms

6884. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are not able to meet the arms exports target as reported in the Times of India dated January 20, 1992;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether the Government have worked out the basic modalites in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the target and time scheduled fixed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFNCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Against an export target of Rs. 104 crores fixed for defence production units during 1991-92, the actual achievement is estimated at Rs. 99.66 crores.

(b) to (d). The short-fall is only marginal. Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings are already engaged in expanding their markets through different marketing strategies including the utilisation of infrastructure with our missions aboad, inter-action with foreign delegation, ratinalisation of prices and publicity measures.

(e) The target for 1992-93 has not been set so far.

Construction of Bridge at Parulia in Orissa

6885. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has sent any proposal for construction of a bridge over Subernarekha river at Parulia in Balasore district;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the amount proposed to be sanctioned for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.